

Hab.—In Victoria on *Acacia implexa*, Bentham. Specimens collected at Myrning in January, 1898.

This species resembles in habits *Lecanium casuarinae*, Mask., inasmuch as specimens were found inhabiting the borings of various lepidopterous and coleopterous wood-feeding insects, so that it would be impossible to discover them without splitting the branches into pieces. The presence of ants in great numbers entering the tunnels is a certain indication of their whereabouts, and is probably the only means of discovering them.

Externally it is not unlike *casuarinae*, but is smaller and differs in the lobes and rostral setæ, as well as in the colouration of the dorsal region. It may possibly only be a variety of *casuarinae*, and I would have been inclined to consider it as such only for the following note from the late Mr. Maskell:—"Your No. 48 is sp. nov. It is a *Lecanium*, very near to No. 38, which I have named, after the host plant, *casuarinae*. It is very interesting to find two insects occupying similar positions so much alike."

A NEW SPECIES OF OWLET NIGHTJAR.

BY ROBERT HALL.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 10th June, 1901.)

Two specimens of an Owlet Nightjar (*Ægotheles*) have recently been forwarded to me from the Fitzroy River, North-West Australia, by Mr. J. P. Rogers. On examination they proved to be adult birds, male and female, and to differ considerably from previously described members of this genus, being nearest in agreement with *Æ. albertisi*, Sclater, from New Guinea. The distinguishing characters are:—The chestnut-rufous on the back of the male is uniform, while that of the female is faintly barred with black; the wings and tail are almost completely marked with strong rufous, vermiculated with dull blackish-brown, while the nuchal collar is complete. The female is slightly duller than the male. The rictal bristles of the male and female are larger than in the *Æ. novæ-hollandiæ*, and there are about one-third more bars upon the central tail quills of each sex.

The bird is evidently undescribed, and I propose to name it *Ægotheles rufescens*, the Rufous Nightjar, and append a detailed description of the male. The type specimens will be deposited in the National Museum, Melbourne.

ÆGOTHELES RUFESCENS, sp. nov.

Adult male.—General appearance rufous; forehead rufescent; head and nape black, with a large amount of rufous on the lateral portions; collar on hind-neck white, washed at the edges of feathers with tawny, complete, and blending with same colour on chest; whole of back chestnut-rufous and uniform; upper tail coverts rufous and barred; central pair of rectrices

chestnut rufous, with blackish-brown bars, the remaining ones having their inner webs with the bars obsolete at the distal end; under surface of tail paler; shoulder and lesser wing coverts chestnut-rufous; outer webs of primaries bright rufous, with blackish-brown bars, inner webs uniform earthy-brown; secondaries rufous, with pale vermiculations; under surface of quills much paler than upper; under wing coverts tawny white; chin whitish; throat, chest, and breast white, flushed with tawny, and faintly arrowhead barred, except on breast; abdomen, flanks, and under tail coverts white; lores creamy white; cheeks creamy white on proximal half, rufous on distal; upper mandible at base flesh-colour, shading into brown at tip; culmen blackish-brown; irides brown; legs and feet brownish cream. Total length, 9.5 inches; wing, 5 inches; tail, 5 inches; tarsus, 0.8 inch; bill, from gape to tip, 1 inch.

Habitat.—Derby, North-West Australia.

EOCENE DEPOSITS AT MOONEE PONDS.

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IN 1896 Mr. T. S. Hall and myself contributed a paper to the Royal Society on the Tertiaries in the neighbourhood of Melbourne, which showed pretty conclusively that fossiliferous localities are fairly common and distributed over a wide area within easy reach. The prevailing character of the out-cropping Tertiary deposits in this area is ferruginous sands, sandstones, grits, gritstones, and occasional conglomerates; and in hunting for fossils it is usually the finest-grained material that yields the best results, both in number and preservation of specimens. But the coarser materials must in no way be overlooked, for sometimes very fair specimens can be obtained at localities of the utmost importance from a stratigraphical point of view. Too much care cannot be taken in collecting fossils around Melbourne, and it is not sufficient to know that all the specimens obtained came from the same locality, but they must be taken from the same bed or level. This precaution is necessary as there are at least two distinct palæontological zones, though there may be practically no lithological difference in the rock in which the fossils occur. I might, perhaps, here include the names of a few of the commoner fossils that can be collected from each of these horizons.

From the upper beds, which have been referred to as Miocene on account of the fossils showing a close agreement with beds of that age at Muddy Creek and other typical localities in the